

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-05 SP-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NEAE-00 /043 W

-----119116 241234Z/11

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7107

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 09186

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, US, IS, EG

SUBJECT: REPORT ON CARTER/BEGIN TALKS

REF: STATE 75625

1. HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH PRESIDENCY DIRECTOR HASSAN KAMEL TO TELL HIM THAT I HOPE HAVE REPORT FOR PRESIDENT SADAT ON BEGIN VISIT BY TOMORROW (SATURDAY) MORNING. SINCE I KNEW SADAT PLANS TO HOLD NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING SOMETIME TOMORROW, I HOPED IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO SEE THE PRESIDENT BEFORE THAT MEETING IN ORDER TO GIVE HIM THE REPORT. TODAY BEING FRIDAY, KAMEL WAS UNABLE TO FIX A TIME, BUT UNDERTOOK ARRANGE SUCH A MEETING FOR TOMORROW MORNING. HE NOTED IT WILL PROBABLY BE IN ABDIN PALACE WHERE SADAT WILL ALSO RECEIVE CREDENTIALS FROM SOME NEWLY ARRIVED AMBASSADORS.

2. TO KEEP MY LINES OPEN WITH FONMIN KAMEL, I ALSO CALLED HIM AT HOME TO TELL HIM OF ABOVE. ADDED I WILL WANT TO GET A COPY OF THE REPORT TO KAMEL AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AFTER I HAD PRESENTED IT TO PRESIDENT SADAT. KAMEL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION.

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3. AT RECEPTION LAST NIGHT FOR VISITING SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL, I WAS TACKLED BY HASSAN KAMEL, GAMASY, J-3 GENERAL GRIDLEY, MININTERIOR GENERAL NABAWI, DMI M/G SHAWKAT AND SEVERAL OTHERS ASKING FOR DETAILS OF THE WASHINGTON TALKS. I COULD TELL THEM NOTHING OFFICIAL, BUT THEY HAD ALL READ AND HEARD NEWS REPORTS. THERE WAS OBVIOUS GRATIFICATION THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD STOOD UP

TO BEGIN, COUPLED WITH A SENSE OF DESPONDENCY THAT BEGIN HAD NOT BUDGED. I SOUGHT TO BUCK UP MY INTERLOCUTORS BY REMINDING THEM THAT CONSIDERABLE FERMENT EXISTS WITHIN ISRAEL WHICH PRIMIN BEGIN AND ISRAELI CABINET WILL HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IN DECIDING FUTURE GOI POLICY STANCE. I ALSO REMINDED THEM EGYPTIANS NO LESS THAN WE HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT COMING TO GRIPS WITH COMPLEX GUT ISSUES WOULD NOT BE EASY. THIS IS THE TIME FOR PATIENCE. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT, BUT MAJOR UNANSWERED QUESTION ON EVERYONE'S LIPS WAS "WHAT NEXT?" PREVAILING SENTIMENT AMONG THIS GROUP WAS CLEARLY THAT SO LONG AS PRIMIN BEGIN IN OFFICE, PROSPECTS OF ACHIEVING ME PEACE ARE SLIM.

4. UNDERSTAND THAT ASHRAF GHORBAL WILL ARRIVE NEXT MONDAY. SINCE HE WILL BE REPORTING TO SADAT AND GOE, WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL TO HAVE SOME INDICATION OF WHAT WE WILL HAVE TOLD HIM ABOUT CARTER/BEGIN WASHINGTON TALKS. EILTS

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